



Pediatric Clinic
PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUTS
AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE TEST

WHAT IS AN ABR?

Your child has been scheduled for an Auditory Brainstem Response Test (ABR). This test is a way to measure how well each ear can hear and to test the brainstem function. The test does not require that the child tell or show that sounds are heard. It is commonly done on infants or small children who cannot or will not cooperate with routine testing.

TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR THE ABR

All children will need to be asleep for the test. So that they may fall asleep easier please remember the following:

1. Children may eat or drink before the test. However, NO CAFFEINE (chocolate, cola drinks) at least 12 hours before the test.
2. It is strongly advised that NO NAPS be allowed before arriving for the test.

HOW THE TEST IS DONE

Your child will be weighed and may be given a mild medicine by mouth to make them sleepy. This medicine is called Chloral Hydrate.

The skin on the forehead and behind each ear will be cleaned off and small surface electrodes (disks) will be taped on those areas.

The wires from the discs are then attached to a special computer. Once the child is asleep, earphones will be placed over the ears. Sounds will be presented through the earphones. Wave forms will then be obtained using the computer. These wave forms are then analyzed to determine hearing levels.

AFTER THE TEST

When the test is finished, your child will then be awakened. The audiologist will discuss the test results and any necessary recommendations. An audiologist is a professional who is trained to identify hearing problems and plan follow-up. A written report will be sent to your referring physician.